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# ***On Tap***

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## **The California Drought, How Serious is it?**

**It is extremely serious!** In fact, if major water conservation efforts are not effective during 2009, water rationing looms on the horizon.

Metropolitan Water District (MET) has taken the lead in promoting water conservation by implementing a series of requirements of water purveyors (cities and water districts) regarding the promotion of water conservation. MET is the large wholesale water district which supplies imported water to virtually all of Southern California. MET adopted a resolution earlier this year that requires member agencies (like TCWD) to adopt a Water Conservation Ordinance by July 1, 2009. This ordinance must contain specific water conservation requirements for the member agency to be eligible for conservation projects and local project funding.

The MET model ordinance essentially has four levels of water conservation measures; each level implements stricter water use requirements in an effort to save water. The first level is the permanent implementation of certain water conservation measures for residences and businesses. These same measures were incorporated in the ordinance developed and adopted by the TCWD Board of Directors.

Residential Water Conservation Requirements:

- No Landscape Irrigation between

the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., except by hand or for purposes of maintenance or repair.

- No excess water flow or runoff.
- No washing down by hose of hard or paved surfaces.
- No Landscape Irrigation when there is rainfall.
- Landscape Irrigation timers are limited to ten (10) minutes per station per day.
- When washing vehicles, hose must have an automatic shutoff nozzle.

Commercial and Business Conservation Requirements:

- Include all of the requirements found in the Residential Requirements.
- Require that restaurants only serve water upon request by the customer.

Finally, the MET requirement stipulates that there must be an administrative process for notification of ordinance violations and assessment of penalties for failure to comply.

The Trabuco Canyon Water District has adopted its Water Conservation Ordinance; it became effective January 1, 2009. It contains all of the provisions required by MET and is intended to serve as a useful tool for the promotion of water con-

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servation throughout the areas served by TCWD.

The implementation plan for the new water ordinance identifies the first quarter of the year (January through March) as the education period to customers of TCWD about the provisions of the new ordinance, hence the focus of this issue of *ON TAP* about the water conservation ordinance.

The entire [TCWD Water Conservation Ordinance](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov), including the adopted Findings and Determinations, and the Purpose and Intent, may be viewed on the District's website: [www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov) (in the Information section).

The implementation of the conservation measures in Levels 1, 2, and 3 will be a result of reduced water allocations to TCWD by MET. It is in everyone's best interest to be very serious about conserving water now in an effort to avoid the more severe ordinance measures in the elevated levels of the water conservation ordinance.

And where is the greatest water conservation obtained? Irrigation of Landscape; this accounts for approximately 70% to 80% of the water used in this District. (Although, there is some conventional wisdom among parents that long showers taken by teenagers are certainly a factor in any water conservation effort!)

A reminder, if you pay your utility billings through your bank and designate the due date of your water bill as the date for payment, you might be risking a late fee. This is due to the fact that the bank's payment process may delay the payment to the District until after the due date. If this occurs, the payment will be considered late even though the funds have been removed from your account on the due date.

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ January 21, 2009 – Recognized the out-going Board President for his service to the District.
- ☐ Approved a letter of authorization for a cellular site application.
- ☐ Received a status update relating to the Water, Reclaimed and Recycled Water Rate Study.
- ☐ Received a status update relating to the Water Conservation Ordinance.
- ☐ Adopted the Treasurer's Annual Statement of Investment Policy.
- ☐ Approved a rate adjustment for general legal services.
- ☐ Amended the use of the manual signature reproduction stamp.
- ☐ Received status updates relating to the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant and Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities Projects.

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

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